

Message Text

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ORIGIN MBFR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 DODE-00

IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01 /145 R

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OJCS/J-5:COL.LAFFERTY (INFORMED)

EUR/RPM:ESTREATOR

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O P 150013Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184012

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM,NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR PRESS STATEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PORTION OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S NEWS INTERVIEW FOLLOWING APPEARANCE BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORGANIZATION, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973.

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ALLIES ATTENTION TO FACT THAT SECDEF STATEMENT WAS NOT ADDRESSED TO FEASIBILITY OF 15 US/SOVIET
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REDUCTION; BUT TO FEASIBILITY OF US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS

IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH WESTERN EUROPEAN SECURITY.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT CONTRARY TO WIRE/PRESS REPORTS, SECDEF REFUSED TO DISCUSS BOTH ARTICLE OR TO CONFIRM 15 US/SOVIET PROPOSAL.

4. BEGIN TEXT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE PROPOSALS ON TROOP REDUCTIONS FOR THE MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS WHEN THEY RESUME?

A: OF COURSE, THEY WILL BE INITIATED ON OCTOBER 30 -- THEY ARE NOT BEING RESUMED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS A SUBJECT THAT WE HAVE PAID SOME ATTENTION TO. I WOULD HOPE THAT

FOR THE MONEY THE PUBLIC PAYS US, WE WOULD BE ATTENTIVE TO THAT ISSUE.

Q: CAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC -- (INAUDIBLE) ABOUT 700,000 ON BOTH SIDES?

A: I WOULDN'T CARE TO COMMENT ON THAT. A POINT I WOULD MAKE IS THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS GOING ABOUT THAT ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, AND THAT THERE IS NO COMMON POSITION THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED AS YET, SO I WOULDN'T CARE TO COMMENT ON ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN SPECULATED ON OR DISCUSSED.

Q: WOULD THE 15 REDUCTION OF AMERICAN FORCES THAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL BE UNFEASIBLE, AND CANNOT BE DONE IN VIEW OF THIS HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT TROOPS (INAUDIBLE)--

A: OUR PURPOSE IN THE MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION EXERCISE IS TO BRING ABOUT A REDUCTION OF U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF WESTERN EUROPE, AND I BELIEVE THAT REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE IN U.S. FORCES WITH THAT PROVISIO AND THAT THAT WOULD BE FEASIBLE.

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Q: (INAUDIBLE) WE'VE GIVEN UP "BALANCED," HAVEN'T WE?

A: NOT UNIVERSALLY.

Q: NOT UNIVERSALLY, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

A: I THINK WE STILL INTEND THAT THE REDUCTIONS BE A

BALANCED ONE.

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